



Abstract

Caring for the environment uses farming as a way to investigate how the choices we make can improve or damage the environment. Students use an enquiry approach to look at how differences in soil can influence the diversity of invertebrate life. Students look at nutrient cycling through the centre's wormery, composting area and games to see how different parts of the environments are interdependent. Students visit a farm to map and evaluate the different ways of managing agriculture for the environment. They will have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge through managing their own field and justify their crops rotation.

Learning Objectives:

- To understand how the decisions we make can improve or damage the environment
- To investigate the conflicts that may arise due to the decisions that farmers must make
- To understand the interdependence within the ecosystem

Options:

- To understand how farming practices can influence the success of small mammals through mammal trapping
- To identify how farming practices can influence the success of large predators through the investigation of owl pellets

Learning Outcomes:

- To give a definition of sustainability
- To identify what a soil is and explain its importance within a woodland and meadow ecosystem.
- To contrast biodiversity of invertebrates within woodland, grass, agricultural ecosystems and "buffer zones"; making predictions on how farm fields may be different
- To demonstrate how nutrients move through an ecosystem and make predictions on how people may influence the nutrient cycle
- To create a map that identifies the methods that farmers use to benefit the environment
- To identify how farmers can improve or damage the environment and apply that knowledge through making decisions on crop rotations

Options:

- To identify mammal trapped using a key and reflect upon their adaptations to the habitats and how farming practice may harm or benefit them
- To construct the feeding habitats of a barn owls using their pellets and reflect on how farming practices may harm or benefit them